His Majesties DECLARATION TO ALL HIS Loving Subjects,

March 15th 167½

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CUM PRIVILEGIO.

His Majesties

DECLARATION

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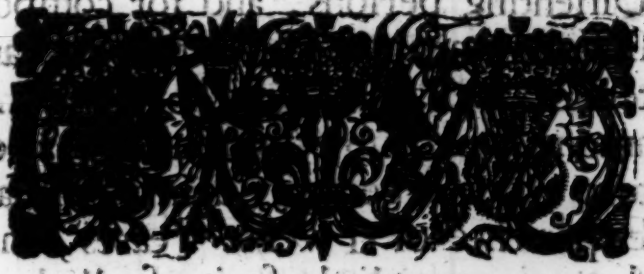
Loving Subjects,



His Majesties DECLARATION TO ALL HIS Loving Subjects.

OUr Care and Endeavors for the Preservation of the Rights and Interests of the Church, have been sufficiently manifested to the World, by the whole course of Our Government, since Our happy Restauration, and by the many and

frequent ways of Coercion that We have used for reducing all Erring or Dissenting persons, and for composing the unhappy Differences in matters of Religion, which We found among Our Subjects upon Our Return: But it being evident by the sad Experience of Twelve Years, that there is very little fruit of all those forceable Courses, We think Our Self obliged to make use of that Supream Power in Ecclesiastical Matters, which is not onely Inherent in Us, but hath been Declared and Recognized to be so by several Statutes and Acts of Parliament; And therefore We do now accordingly issue this Our Declaration, As well for the Quieting the Minds of Our good Subjects in these Points, for Inviting Strangers in this Conjuncture, to come and Live under Us, and for the better Encouragement of all to a Chearful following of their Trade and Callings, from whence We hope by the Blessing of God, to have many good and happy Advantages to Our Government; As also for preventing for the future, the danger that might otherwise

otherwiſe ariſe from Private Meetings, and Seditious Conventicles.

And in the Firſt place, We Declare Our expreſs Reſolution, Meaning, and Intention to be, That the *Church of England* be Preſerved, and remain Entire in its Doctrine, Diſcipline, and Government, as now it ſtands Eſtabliſhed by Law; And that This be taken to be, as it is, the Baſis, Rule, and Standard of the General and Publick Worſhip of God, and that the Orthodox Conformable Clergy do receive and enjoy the Revenues belonging thereunto; And that no perſon, though of a different Opinion and Perſwaſion, ſhall be exempt from paying his Tythes, or other Dues whatſoever. And further We Declare, That no perſon ſhall be capable of holding any Benefice, Living, or Eccleſiaſtical Dignity or Preferment of any kind in this Our Kingdom of *England*, who is not exactly Conformable.

We do in the next place Declare Our Will and Pleaſure to be, That the Execution of all and all manner of

Penal Laws in matters Eccleſiaſtical, againſt whatſoever ſort of Non-Conformiſts or Recuſants, be immediately Suſpended, and they are hereby Suſpended. And all Judges, Judges of Aſſiſe and Gaol-delivery, Sheriffs, Juſtices of the Peace, Mayors, Bayliffs, and other Officers whatſoever, whether Eccleſiaſtical or Civil, are to take notice of it, and pay due Obedience thereunto.

And that there may be no pretence for any of Our Subjects to continue their illegal Meetings and Conventicles, We do Declare, That We ſhall from time to time allow a ſufficient number of Places, as they ſhall be deſired, in all parts of this Our Kingdom, for the uſe of ſuch as do not Conform to the *Church of England*, to meet and aſſemble in, in order to their Publick Worſhip and Devotion; which Places ſhall be open and free to all perſons.

But to prevent ſuch diſorders and inconveniencies as may happen by this Our Indulgence, if not duely regulated,

gulated, and that they may be the better protected by the Civil Magiſtrate, Our expreſs Will and Pleaſure is, That none of our Subjects do preſume to meet in any Place, until ſuch Place be allowed, and the Teacher of that Congregation be approved by us.

And leſt any ſhould apprehend, that this reſtriction ſhould make Our ſaid Allowance and Approbation difficult to be obtained; We do further Declare, That this Our Indulgence, as to the Allowance of the Publick Places of Worſhip, and Approbation of the Teachers, ſhall extend to all ſorts of Nonconformiſts and Recuſants, except the Recuſants of the Roman Catholick Religion, to whom We ſhall in no wiſe allow Publick Places of Worſhip, but onely Indulge them their ſhare in the common Exemption from the execution of the Penal Laws, and the Exerciſe of their Worſhip in their private Houſes onely.

And if after this Our Clemency and Indulgence, any of Our Subjects ſhall

ſhall preſume to Abuſe this Liberty, and ſhall Preach Seditiouſly, or to the Derogation of the Doctrine, Diſcipline, or Government of the Eſtabliſhed Church, or ſhall meet in Places not Allowed by us, We do hereby give them warning, and Declare, we will proceed againſt them with all imaginable Severity: And we will let them ſee we can be as Severe to Puniſh ſuch Offenders, when ſo juſtly Provoked, as we are Indulgent to truly Tender Conſciences.

Given at Our Court at Whitehall *this Fifteenth day of* March, *in the Four and twentieth year of Our Reign.*

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